

# Gardening

## Plan shade planting

By Lynda Nykor

For some reason, most of us shrink from using our imagination when it comes to gardening in the shade. Usually we just fill up shady spots with impatiens or begonias and never think much beyond that.

But shade gardening, with a little planning, can be just as varied and rewarding as it is for beds in full sun here in York Region.

Let's start with annuals and see what kind of color and interest these can provide:

Salvia, pansies and alyssum are worth combining with your impatiens and begonias, if the shade isn't too dense.

Nicotiana, snapdragons, lobelia and forget-me-not will tolerate some shade, perhaps on an east or west side of the house. Many petunias will also thrive there.

Coleus, of course, adds foliage color. It is always a popular choice for shady spots. Before frost, take some stem cuttings for houseplants.

There are many perennials that add to the shady garden.

Some of the best are astilbe, perennial foxglove, bergenia, bleeding heart, gasplant, most irises, monarda, balloonflower, and day-lily.

Columbines, dwarf asters, coral bells, hosta and peonies all tolerate some shade.

Most flowering shrubs prefer sun in order to bloom but there are some that are custom-tailored for shaded locations.

The popular forsythia, spirea, deutzia, flowering quince, mock orange and kerria japonica will all do well with a small amount of sun.

Some lesser known ones that will also adapt well to a fair amount of shade are the franklinia, the fothergilla, the fragrant daphne, the rose-of-sharon, and some of the viburnums.

There are also a number of ground-covers that can make a shady garden an attractive spot. Try ajuga with its blue spring flowers, English ivy, pachysandra or periwinkle.

Some of the finest plants for the shady or semi-shady garden are found among the rhododendrons and azaleas. With an acid soil, a protected location and a minimum of sun these can be the most beautiful plants in any part of your garden.

Don't forget bulbs for spring bloom. Plant the early ones under deciduous trees and shrubs. They need enough light to flower before the leaves appear on the trees.

Plant snowdrops, squills, crocuses, hyacinths and any of the early flowering tulips or daffodils.



### Lettuce patching

Nothing like a few sunny days to make you feel all that gardening's worthwhile. Looking both pleased with the sun and her patch of lettuce, is Mrs.

Lotte Thelen of 51 Birch Ave., Richmond Hill, shown getting a good start on her backyard produce.

### Geraniums popular

The versatile geranium is one of the most popular garden flowers because it will bloom all summer long with little attention.

R.F. Gomme, Ontario ministry of agriculture and food horticulturist, says it is easy to take cuttings from over-wintered geraniums to replenish the supply for this year's garden.

The traditional method of over-wintering geraniums was to hang the plants in a cool, dark place in the fall. In the early spring the plants were potted, watered and cut back. After the new growth began, the plants were replanted in the garden.

Mr. Gomme says a more vigorous plant can be produced by taking cuttings from these over-wintered plants.

He suggests watering the old plants and taking six-inch long cuttings when the new shoots grow.

Remove the lower leaves from the cutting and dip the end in a fungicide such as Captan. Plant the cuttings about two inches deep and two inches apart in a six-inch flower pot.

Gomme advises using a soil mixture of coarse sand mixed with peat moss or vermiculite. Water the soil mixture thoroughly and place the container in a clear plastic bag under a lighting unit or in a window protected from direct sunlight.

Once the cuttings have rooted apply a weak fertilizer. The cuttings should be ready for transplanting in about one month.

Geraniums can also be grown from seed. However, if you have a strain of geranium you like, cuttings are best.

Geraniums are available in a range of colors including red, pink and white and are attractive in patio pots or window boxes.

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### Apartment gardening can give you a lift

Apartment dwellers can enhance their high-rise homes by planting gardens above ground. Balcony pots and hanging baskets of clay or plastic enable the gardener with limited space to grow an endless variety of annual flowers and vegetables.

concentration of fertilizer in the soil and kill the roots." "Soil in pots or baskets should be porous, open and well-drained. A mixture of topsoil and peatmoss with 20 to 25 percent sand is suitable. Soil that is too tightly packed will prevent free

water movement and will block essential oxygen from the roots."

The small volume of soil in containers provides the plant with little water reserve so it is necessary to water the plants thoroughly until water runs from the bottom of the pots.

### Water your lawn deeply

'Water deeply and save water' is the motto for greener lawns and lower watering costs.

According to Professor R.W. Irwin of the school of engineering, Ontario Agricultural College, a lot of water is wasted in too frequent waterings that are too short to allow water to seep deeply into the soil.

'Frequent watering results in shallow rooting and crabgrass. It also causes insufficient water reserves that cannot maintain the turf.'

The best way to encourage deep water reserves is to water in the early morning.

Lawns require one inch of water per week. This means one hour of watering to saturate 250 square feet of lawn.

Professor Irwin recommends using good quality sprinklers to supply water evenly. A tin can should be placed near the sprinkler to determine when an area has received adequate water. Newly-seeded lawns should be watered carefully.

'New lawns shouldn't be saturated until the root system is established. Water just enough to allow the grass seeds to germinate.'

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